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Assistant Director for Operations

31 March 1948

Chief, FBIB

PRAVDA Report of U.S. Spy Group
in USSR Zone of Occupied Germany

On 30 March, the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio transmitted (in German to Germany) a version of the subject PRAVDA article. The Berlin radio's version gave the following alleged "facts" in addition to those included in the Soviet Home Service broadcast, reported in memorandum of 30 March 1948 from Chief, FBIB to Assistant Director for Operations.

According to the Berlin broadcast, Pinkert (alleged to be head of an American-financed "espionage body" in the Soviet zone) was recruited into this illegal organization in the summer of 1946 by Hans Erasmus, formerly Chief of Staff of the "Brandenburg" Division. Pinkert also admitted that it was the task of the center of this illegal organization to contact German agents who had been left in various countries during the war. Espionage activities were to be carried out mainly through Austria and Sweden. Pinkert himself had been repeatedly in the Soviet zone by order of Erasmus. There he won over to the organization officers of the former German armed forces whom he knew personally. The information given to the American intelligence also included the condition and productivity of industrial enterprises in Saxony.

L. L. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

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